

OCFO BULLETIN



Special Edition

Published by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer

March 4, 1998 - FY98 No. 06

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued an unqualified opinion on the Department's FY 1997 Consolidated Financial Statements. Furthermore, the OIG concluded that none of the reportable conditions listed in its report were considered material weaknesses. The OIG report also notes that the Department "has made great strides this year" in resolving and closing prior year recommendations. This is the first year the OIG has issued an unqualified opinion on our Consolidated Financial Statements or reported no material weaknesses among the reportable conditions.

This is an outstanding accomplishment testifying to the Department's dedication to excellence in financial management. Achievement of this milestone required the coordinated efforts of program, financial and OIG staffs. Program staff were instrumental in resolving and closing prior year recommendations. Financial staff were instrumental not only in resolving and closing recommendations, but in assuring the accuracy of the Department's accounting records. OIG staff played a significant role in working with management to ensure that corrective actions resolved open recommendations. The OIG also expended a great deal of effort working with the General Accounting Office and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to obtain the necessary level of confidence in the accuracy of the data provided by the IRS. Everyone who played a role in these efforts can take pride in the results.

With a solid foundation, we can now build on this success and resolve the remaining reportable conditions cited in the report. In particular, recently enacted legislation regarding financial systems (the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996, FFMIA) will require the Department to establish specific corrective action plans for several agency financial systems cited by the Inspector General as noncompliant with financial and accounting standards. Over the next 60 days, OCFO will work closely with affected agencies to develop these plans and ensure that the systems can be made compliant within the three year statutory requirement.

We look forward to working with you in maintaining financial management excellence in the Department, and we wish to thank each of you who participated in achieving this outstanding milestone. **CONGRATULATIONS** on your achievement!